



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

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Mother of Fallen Cadet to Receive Gold Star Mother Plate

Murray State University ROTC to Host Ceremony

(MURRAY, KY, November 3, 2008) Seventeen years after Roger A. Herndon's death in military service, Donna Herndon will receive a Gold Star Mother license plate honoring her son.

Herndon died in a plane crash in 1991 while a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. Les Beavers, Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Ret.), Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs and a West Point graduate himself, will present the personalized plate to Mrs. Herndon.

Cadet Herndon's mother requested the ceremony take place at MSU's ROTC program. She is a former staff member of MSU, and her husband and Roger Herndon's father, MAJ Clarence W. (Woody) Herndon, US Army (Ret.), is a former Cadet Battalion Commander of MSU ROTC. He served in the Army as an Armor Officer, was a helicopter pilot and Vietnam veteran.

The ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. Central Time on Monday, Nov. 10 on the second floor, west end of the Blackburn Science Building on the MSU campus in Murray, Kentucky. The public is invited to attend. Please respond to Rose Wyatt in the ROTC Department at

rose.wyatt@murraystate.edu or 270-809-5061 as soon as possible to ensure adequate seating and parking for the event.

In April 2006, Kentucky began issuing personalized license plates to Gold Star Mothers, whose children have died in military service. To date, Kentucky has presented more than 40 of the special plates to such mothers.

When you see license plates with a Gold Star next to the name, take a moment to acknowledge the mother whose child made the ultimate sacrifice.